

# OUR CHARTER OF FREEDOM

The interesting story of the writing and signing of the Declaration of Independence—July 2 or August 2 better entitled to celebration than July 4.

**P**OPULAR history has fastened upon our impressionable minds a poetic picture of the signing of the Declaration of Independence as a graceful and formal function, taking place July 4, 1776, in a large, handsomely furnished chamber in Independence hall, Philadelphia. To give the necessary touch of vivacity to the picture there is the scene of the small boy darting from the door as the last signer sets his autograph to the precious parchment and dashing down the street, calling to his grandfather, to "Ring! Oh, ring for liberty!"

Our ideal proclamation of the charter of American freedom must be shattered in the cause of truth. The Declaration of Independence was signed behind locked doors, and was not generally signed upon the Fourth of July at all. The city was not breathlessly awaiting the event outside, nor did the Liberty bell peal forth on that day the triumphant note of freedom.

The accredited historian of the United States department of state is Gullard Hunt, Litt. D., L.L. D., now chief of the division of manuscripts in the Library of Congress.

"There is really no reason for our celebrating the Fourth of July more than July 2 or August 2," said Doctor Hunt recently to an inquirer. "It was not until the latter date that the document was generally signed."

"The Virginia bill of rights, of which George Mason was also the author, was drawn up and adopted in the last colonial assembly in Virginia prior to the Revolution. The bill of rights is in effect a part of every constitution in the land today. It is beyond doubt that this famous document, of which his elderly friend was author, was largely drawn upon by Thomas Jefferson when he wrote the Declaration of Independence."

"The fundamental principles of government set forth in Mason's bill of rights were the same as those in the English petitions to the king, the acts of the long parliament and magna charta."

"You know, perhaps, that it was another Virginian, Richard Henry Lee, who presented to congress, on June 7, 1776, a set of resolutions containing the words, 'That these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.'"

"It was as a result of the favorable voting upon Lee's resolutions that the well-known committee, composed of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston, was named to draft the document. The committee assigned the task of preparing the instrument to the Virginian. Jefferson's was the master political mind and it was by no mere chance that he was called upon to write the document which has been termed 'the best-known paper that has ever come from the pen of an individual.'"

## Drafting of the Declaration.

"Thomas Jefferson was the personification of method," remarked Doctor Hunt, "and immediately upon receiving his commission to write the declaration he retired to the two rooms he rented as a working place at Seventh and Market place, Philadelphia, and prepared to give his country one of the greatest monuments of human freedom."

"The department of state owns the first draft of the Declaration which Jefferson presented to the committee for its approval. His conferees made a few alterations, which are clearly shown in the text, and Jefferson has written beside each change the name of his author, making the document of inestimable value."

"The fair copy which he made for presentation to congress, and which bears the congressional amendments and alterations, is lost."

"The latter is the formal Declaration of Independence laid before congress on June 28, 1776. It was then read and ordered to lie on the table until July 1. On July 2 a resolution was passed declaring the independence of the United States, although the exact form of the proclamation as prepared by Jefferson was debated upon until July 4, when, with some alterations and amendments, it was signed by John Hancock, president of the congress, and the signature attested by Charles Thomson, secretary of congress."

"July 2 was actually the date of separation of the colonies from the mother country. On July 3 we find John Adams, whom Jefferson called the 'colossus of the colonies,' writing to his wife, Abigail, in the following words:

"Yesterday the greatest question which was ever debated in America was decided, and a greater perhaps never was nor will be decided among men."

## Great Day Was July 2.

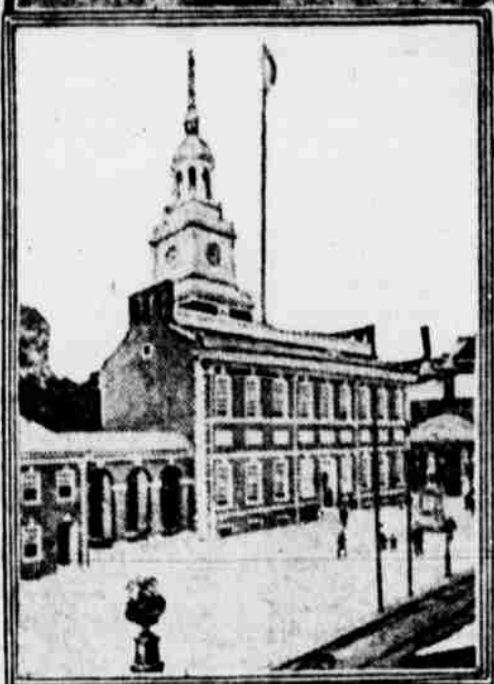
"In a second letter, written the same day, he said: 'But the day is past. July 2 will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.'"

"There is little doubt but that the participants in the event considered July 2 as the true date of independence for the colonies, but popular fancy settled upon the 4th, the date of acceptance of Jefferson's formal and detailed setting forth as the proper date of celebration."

"John Trumbull's famous painting of the scene, hanging in the rotunda of the capitol, is a poetical piece of work and gives many of the portraits of the signers with faithfulness, but it is somewhat fanciful. No stiken hangings draped the windows of that stuffy room on July 4, 1776, and the beautiful order in which the men are ranged up for signing the immortal document is also fictional."



Drafting the Declaration of Independence



Independence Hall

"The president of the congress, John Hancock, with the secretary, Charles Thomson, alone signed the autograph Jefferson document on that date. Immediately afterward it was hurried to the official printer for congress, John Dunlap, to put in type and several copies were made. By next morning the printed copies of Jefferson's Declaration of Independence were in Hancock's hands. When he came to write the proceedings for the Fourth of July, 1776, into the Journal of Congress, Charles Thomson, secretary of the congress, left a blank space for the Declaration and it is this broadside which now appears watered into the space left for it in the Journal."

"This broadside was sent out to the governors of the states, to the Continental army, and it is the paper from which the Declaration of Independence

was read to the people July 8, when the Liberty bell was rung and the first public celebration was made in honor of the event."

## Signed August 2.

"July 19 congress ordered that the Declaration passed the 4th be fairly engrossed. It was very beautifully done on parchment. This is the document which received the signatures of all the members of the Continental congress present in Independence hall, August 2, 1776. By this time, however, the membership had changed slightly, so that the 'signers' were not identical with the body of delegates who had declared for independence a month before. Presumably it was at this time that Hancock, making his great familiar signature, jestingly remarked that John Bull could see it without his spectacles. One or two of the signatures were not actually affixed until a later date than August 2."

"This is the treasured Declaration of Independence now in possession of the department of state," said Doctor Hunt. "It is kept in a hermetically sealed case, which is opened only by special order for very especial reasons. It is faded, and it would have been better if this engrossed copy had been made on paper rather than parchment. It is so faded that few of the signatures are recognizable. Nothing can now be done which will permanently benefit it."

"I believe the main cause of the fading was the impression taken in 1823, by order of President Monroe. Two hundred facsimiles were then made to give a copy to each of the then living signers and others. Taking the impression removed the ink."

history let all true Americans today highly resolve on a new birth within their own souls of the faiths of those men 140 years ago, of faith in themselves and of faith in America.

## THEY BELIEVED IN AMERICA

One hundred and forty years ago some half-hundred men, sent by their communities to concert measures for securing their "rights as Englishmen," became convinced that these could not be obtained save by ceasing to be "British subjects" and declaring themselves "American citizens."

Let us look behind the formal phrases of the immortal Declaration to the faith of these men and of the people for whom they spoke. What was the faith that made vital their appeal for the justice of their cause and the righteousness of their undertaking?

They believed in themselves; in their ability to do right and justice. They believed in the competence of stalwart manhood to govern itself and to provide for the common welfare. They believed they could make better arrangements in government than men had made before them. They believed in themselves, in their people, in America.

Americans of late have done a great deal of fault-finding with America. There is not so much now as a year or two ago. The spectacle across the Atlantic tends to bush it, and to give new point to the saying that "other countries" are what make Americans so proud of their own.

In the light of that spectacle and of our own

## OF GREAT MOMENT IN HISTORY.

The declaration of American independence was of unequalled moment in history. As the result of that fact, the United States of America has risen to a greatness which has changed the face of the world. In a little less than seven score of years it has changed us from a nation of people scattered thinly along the coast of the Atlantic, to a nation of over a hundred millions of people stretching over the whole continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and even into the lands beyond the seas. Moreover, in wealth and in material energy, as in numbers, it now far surpasses the mother country from which it sprang.

## TRIBUTE TO THE DECLARATION.

The historian Buckle was cordial and sweeping in his praise of the Declaration. He said among other things: "That noble Declaration ought to be hung up in the nursery of every king and blazoned on the porch of every royal palace."

If such were the brilliant historian's idea, it was as Professor Tyler remarked, "because the Declaration has become the classic statement of political truths which must at last abolish kings altogether or else teach them to identify their existence with the dignity and happiness of human nature."

## TENNESSEE TROOPS GO UNDER ORDERS

NATIONAL GUARD COMPANIES ARE BEING RECRUITED TO WAR STRENGTH.

## TENNESSEE MULES WANTED

Adjutant General Gets Word From War Department That Animals Are Wanted For Use of the Militia.

—Nashville.

Under orders from the adjutant general's office the Tennessee troops went under orders on the morning of June 22. Every quartermaster promptly went into service at that time. The Tennessee guardsmen are continuing their preparatory work of recruiting and drilling. Nothing has transpired to indicate that a change in plans will be made by the Tennessee department, although it is expected that inquiry will soon be made by Washington as to when the Tennessee troops will be ready for service. Gen. Funston's request for quick militia reinforcements being the basis of this expected inquiry.

Gen. Rogan, Capt. W. N. Hughes, Jr., Maj. Harry Berry, Capt. Stanis and Lieut. Sturgeon went to the state fair grounds this morning to lay out the camp.

Capt. Hughes, who has just returned from Seagirt, N. J., is being mentioned for the office of colonel of the First Tennessee regiment when that regiment is reorganized. Capt. Hughes is the United States army inspector-instructor and mustering officer for Tennessee. He was at Seagirt on temporary duty with the New Jersey national guard when mobilization was ordered.

Capt. Hughes is a native Tennessean and is in close touch with the guard, having been the regular army instructor with it for nearly two years.

Tennessee horses and mules for the mobilization of the national guard are being asked for by the government in a telegram received by Gen. Chas. B. Rogan, adjutant general, from Gen. Mills, chief of the militia bureau, asking that he get in touch with prospective bidders in this section.

Gen. Mills' telegram was as follows:

"The Adjutant General, Nashville: Quartermaster general army is advertising for bids for horses and mules required for national guard on mobilization. Instructions to bidders, blank proposals and other information may be obtained from the following officers: Depot Quartermaster, Front Royal Remount Zone, Front Royal, Va., and Purchasing Officer, Quartermaster Corps, Kansas City, Mo. Please furnish above information to any prospective bidders that may be known to you." "MILLS, Chief Militia Bureau."

As Tennessee has always furnished a good number of the army mules and also horses for the service, it is probable that a quick response will be made to this announcement.

## To Locate Trachoma Hospital.

Surgeon John McMullen of the United States health service, and Dr. R. Q. Lillard, executive officer of the state board of health, are in the upper East Tennessee mountains on a tour of inspection to locate the field hospital to be established by the federal government for the free treatment of trachoma, commonly known as "granulated sore eyes."

The establishment of this hospital will be of inestimable value to a class of citizenship of the state financially unable to obtain proper and scientific treatment for this dreaded malady. This is an extension of the work that was inaugurated about four years ago in the mountain regions of Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. The state board of health has been trying to secure this hospital for two years.

## DREDGE BRINGS UP CORPSE.

Unknown Dead Man Found When Big Pump Is Stopped.

Memphis.—Clogged in the intake pipe of a huge suction pump on a dredgeboat at work in the Wolf River canal, at this place, the body of a well-dressed white man, apparently about 35 years of age, was found. There were no visible marks of violence. Workmen stopped the pump when it became evident that it was clogged and began investigations. In cleaning it out they made their grim discovery. The body had apparently been in the water about two weeks. The only clue which the police have to the identity of the floater are the initials "P. E. G." found on the man's gold stickpin and tie clasp.

## CHILD'S TRAGIC DEATH.

Nine-Year-Old Falls Into Stream of Molten Slag.

Clarksville.—James, the nine-year-old son of W. B. Winn, fell into a slough of molten slag at the Red River Iron Works and received injuries from which he died. The child was walking along the edge of the slough which carries the red hot slag from furnace to dump cars, when the side of the slough caved in, letting him down into the river of fire.

## Summer Luncheon in a Jiffy

Let Libby's splendid chef relieve you of hot-weather cooking. Stock the pantry shelf with

**Libby's Sliced Dried Beef** and the other good summer meats—including Libby's Vienna Sausage—you'll find them fresh and appetizing.

Libby, McNeill & Libby, Chicago



## Situations for White or Colored Men

and boys in our mill and box department. Good wages, steady work; unsurpassed working conditions. NO STRIKE ON. G. Elias & Bro. Inc., Buffalo, N. Y.

## Might Help.

"I find it almost impossible to keep the wolf from the door!" "Do you ever try eating an onion?"

## Keep It in Your Stable.

For external use on horses nothing that we know of equals Hanford's Balsam. Many trainers use it as a leg wash because it keeps the skin in fine condition and should cure lamenesses. Adv.

## One Exception.

"A man who is any kind of a man should always have convictions to his credit."

"But suppose he is state's attorney and can't always get 'em'?"

There is No Art in Taking Medicine. Just follow directions on every bottle of "Plantation" Chill Tonic and see how quickly those dreadful chills will leave you. It leaves the liver in healthy condition and yet contains no Calomel. Price 50c.—Adv.

## Very Obliging.

"Miss Oldgirl is an obliging sort of person." "How so?" "When that rude old duffer told her he didn't like her face, she changed countenance."

## Profitable.

"I don't see how the railroads can afford to give such low rates to commuters."

"That's easy. They make their money on the servants who are continually coming and going."

## Hunting Trouble.

When a man just naturally wants trouble it is mighty easy to find an excuse for making it. According to Mike Hogan, Casey and O'Brien were having an argument of their own at Breckinridge street and Barrett avenue. It had progressed to the extent that each had forgotten what it was about originally and they were wholly oblivious of the gathering crowd until an urban and genteel person in a frock coat put in.

"Come, come, my man," he said, gently plucking Casey by the sleeve. "You don't want to fight; I can tell it by your looks. Your face is too benign."

"Two be nine! Two be nine, is ut, yo scutt!" bellowed Casey. "Me face is two be nine is ut!" And there was where the real trouble began.—Louisville Times.

## A Sensible Thing To Do

When the drug, caffeine—the active principle in coffee—shows in headache, nervousness, insomnia, biliousness, jumpy heart, and so on, the sensible thing to do is to quit the coffee.

It's easy, having at hand the delicious pure food-drink

## Instant Postum

It is made from wheat roasted with a bit of wholesome molasses and is free from any harmful substance.

Thousands who prefer to protect their health, use Postum with comfort and delight.

Made in the cup—instantly—with hot water. Convenient, nourishing, satisfying.

"There's a Reason" for POSTUM